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Hercules L. Dousman [St. Peters, MN and Prairie du Chien, WI] to W. Beaumont [Saint Louis, MO] regarding: money owed to Beaumont, land speculation in Prairie du Chien and Winnebago, attempt to employ St. Martin through Lake Superior traders, deeds sent Beaumont by Dousman. November 13, 1837

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St. Peters 13th November 1837 J. 7

My Dear Doctor)

Your valued favor of 20th Septbr. reached me at this place only last Evening, & I cannot acct. for the delay it has met with, as I left Prairie du Chien on the 25th of last month and it should in the regular course of mail have been there before that time - I regret the delay as it would have been in my power to have answered your letter more fully on all points from there than I can here -

My Note which you paid to Mr. Orthy came to hand safely, & accept my thanks for your prompt attention to it - the balance due you, say Two hundred Dollars, I will endorse on your Note so soon as I go to the Prairie, where I left it - Bailly is a scamp for besides the \$200 which I had paid him on acct. of my Note, he has had the impudence to tell Mr. Crook in Washington that I owed him \$1000, and obtained from Mr. Crook \$300 more on the faith of it -

Curtis has not paid me a cent yet on acct. of Rent, but I think he will in the course of this month be able to pay the years rent, which is now due - he has a contract to furnish Wood to the Garrison & is to receive his pay in this month, at which time he promises most faithfully to pay up - The Change in the times has of course affected property at the Prairie as it has every where else, and little or nothing has been done there in the way of Sale since last Spring - Your property there is valuable, & hold on to it till things take a start again - I have done nothing myself, either in purchase or Sale since I saw you - my financials will not admit of doing any thing more at present -

I will get Burnett to write to you (so soon as I see him) on
the subject of the Lands you hold in Company with him -
- the purchase you made of me last Spring, you need not
regret, for I could get more for it even now as bad as the
times are - I have sent you two of the Duds & the other (for
the Block in the Town of Winnebago) I have sent to be recorded
- Mr Boilwin told me that he wished to purchase it & would
make you an offer for it - I think he will give \$800 or per-
-haps more - I do not know any thing about St. Floris
property at Madison & Fonds du Lac, but think you can
employ your money elsewhere to better advantage than at
either of those places - neither of them will realize the anti-
-cipations which were formed of them - You may depend
that I will not forget you, whenever a favorable opportunity
offers to take hold of something which ~~is~~ promises a sure
& good investment - the fact is I have been so afraid of the
times & of involving myself, that I have foregone many good
bargains lately - Now for your Patent Digestor, Mont-
Alesis - We brot up men enough from Montreal last Spring
to answer us for two years, consequently we have ordered none
for next season - but the Company will probably send some
up for the Lake Superior Traders, as they do every year - they
are sent via the Grand River to the Sault de St. Marie, in
which case Alesis could come up with them to that place
& then via Mackinac & Chicago to your place - You must
write immediately to Mr. Crooks at N. York & state to him all
the circumstances, your wishes, and I know he will do all in his
power for you promptly - and if they send up men he will order

Alexis to be sent with them - Write to Mr. Morrison also and I know he will interest himself ~~also~~ to see that Alexis is sent off at the proper time - I shall mention to Mr. Crooks in my next letter, that he will confer a very particular favor on me by immediately attending to your wishes - I am sorry that it is not in my power to do more for you, but any thing else you may suggest whereby I can help you in this matter I will do ~~it~~ with the greatest alacrity & pleasure - indeed in this as in all other matters, command me without the least reserve, and feel assured that nothing will gratify me more than to serve one of my old & esteemed friends - Perhaps Mr. Crooks could find means to have Alexis brot. via Lake Champlain to Albany, thence to Buffalo & Chicago - I think you had better suggest to him in case they do ~~it~~ send him up via. the Grand River - I do not believe it will be much more expensive & it will certainly be more expeditious - as he can reach you in about a month from Canada in that way - I shall probably visit your place on business as soon as I can get away from here, early in the Spring - in the mean time should be glad to hear from you - My most affectionate regards for Mr. B. and the family and believe me Dear Doctor, most truly &c. friend

H. C. Doudman

Samuel Chin W. J.
Nov 13 1837

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Doctor Wm. Beaumont
Surgeon U. S. Army
St. Louis Mo.

H. J. Beaumont
about Alex. Sherman
Primer, Rev. Dr.
Nov 13 1837